EPA Fixed Air Monitoring Stations World Trade Center Area Dioxin Air Sample Results

Each chart shows how much dioxin EPA measured in the air at a given site from 9/23/01 through 4/24/02. Totals (for sampling through 04/24/02, in ng/m3) Screening Level: 0.16 Total Samples: 613 0.82% Samples Below Screening Level: 608 Samples Below Screening Level: 60
% Below: 99.18
% Samples Above Screening Level: 5
% Above: 0.82
% Minimum Value: 0.000018
Maximum Value: 0.180000 Average: 0.004220 Samples Below Screening Level:
Samples Above Screening Level: 99.18% Site 16 only has dioxin sampled on 10/04/01 (result of 0.071 ng/m3) Miles

Dioxin refers to a group of chemicals created when many types materials burn; it is also created during some types of manufacturing and incineration. Dioxin does not break down easily, remains in the environment and can be distributed by wind and water. It is found in a wide variety of places. People are exposed to dioxin primarily by eating meat, dairy and fish. The burning of building and office debris at the World Trade Center caused some emissions of dioxin. Most of the air samples taken in areas surrounding the work zone and analyzed for dioxin have been below EPA's screening level, which is set to protect against significantly increased risks of cancer and other adverse health effects. The screening level is based on an assumption of continuous exposure for a year to an average concentration of 0.16 nanograms per cubic meter(ng/m3). The unit ng/m3 is the mass of dioxin/furan compounds in nanograms (a billionth of a gram) per cubic meter of air. Because the vast majority of individual as well as the average* measured dioxin levels have been lower than the screening level, EPA does not expect an increased risk of health problems as a result of dioxin being emitted from the World Trade Center site. For more information on this level of concern see: Benchmarks, Standards and Guidelines Established to Protect Public Health (http://www.epa.gov/wtc/benchmarks.htm)